



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

October 12, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

TRIAL COURT FACILITIES ACT OF 2002: QUARTERLY UPDATE

On November 12, 2002, your Board instructed my office to report on the implementation of SB 1732 (Escutia, Statutes of 2002) and to provide quarterly updates thereafter. SB 1732 is the legislation which authorizes the transfer of county courthouses to the State. This is one in a series of reports on the subject and covers July through September 2007 activities.

Legislative Activities

SB 145 (Corbett) as amended on August 31, 2007, and AB 1491 (Benoit) as amended on September 7, 2007, are nearly identical bills which would have extended the deadline from June 30, 2007 to December 31, 2008, for the transfer of trial court facilities from the counties to the State Judicial Council. Both bills would require counties to pay an additional inflation adjustment on the county facility payment for transfer agreements executed after January 1, 2008, under certain circumstances. Technical difficulties in both bills would have resulted in a transfer deadline, for this County only, of June 30, 2008, necessitating intensive work between now and next June to complete that difficult task.

Both SB 145 and AB 1491 were caught up in legislative leadership disputes, failed passage, and have become two-year bills. Given this outcome, the authority to transfer trial court facilities ended on June 30, 2007. Along with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), CSAC and other organizations, the County will continue to seek passage of legislation to extend the deadline for the transfer of trial court facilities in early January 2008 when the Legislature reconvenes.

Transfer of Courthouses

As we reported in our Board letter dated June 19, 2007, the County has transferred responsibility for the Long Beach Courthouse and is working on finalizing the title transfer to the State. The expiration of the transfer authority has no effect on the transferred Long Beach Courthouse. Based on the approved State Budget and a project to replace the Courthouse, the AOC has offered the County between \$5.7 and \$5.9 million to purchase the County's equity in the courthouse. As we believe the property to be worth somewhat more, we are obtaining an appraisal, and will provide that information to the AOC when we meet in December.

We are currently working on generating the necessary transfer documentation for the remaining County courthouses. We are targeting dates between now and February 15, 2008 to submit the required documentation to the State for those courthouses. Other activities include the completion of the countywide facilities payment calculations, completion of parking agreements and space allocation plans for each courthouse, and negotiation of transfer agreements for each courthouse, in anticipation of the passage of legislation extending the transfer deadline using language similar to SB 145.

Other Activities

My office has been meeting with the AOC on a weekly basis to discuss individual courthouse transfers as well as methods to simplify procedures and documentation requirements. In addition the AOC has agreed to increase their staff level dedicated to the County to meet the anticipated deadlines.

A meeting with the Superior Court is scheduled in mid-October to discuss strategies to ensure that office space can be provided for court-related County staff, such as the District Attorney, in new State-built courthouses. We will continue in that effort with the AOC, both for the planned Long Beach replacement courthouse and for other future courthouse projects.

The County continues to meet quarterly with other southern California counties to share experience and knowledge gained in the transfer process, as well as to participate in as-needed Statewide conference calls with CSAC. We will provide the next quarterly report in January 2008.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please let me know or you may contact Michele Vercoutere at (213) 893-2476.

WTF:JSE:MV:AT:tlh

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Auditor-Controller
 Internal Services Department
 Department of Public Works